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# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Assistant Director for Operations

DATE: 7 November 1952

FROM : Chief, FBID

SUBJECT: Comment on Office of Training Basic Intelligence Course

1. The proposed Basic Intelligence Course will entail six weeks' delay in the EOD of new personnel after clearances. FBID will find it difficult to absorb this additional time lag at the present time, especially in the editorial and information specialist field. The proposed course does not touch upon the specific problems, techniques and requirements of FBID, nor does it seem to contribute substantially toward preparation for the editorial, analytical and monitoring work in which most of FBID's professional employees will be engaged during their first several years in CIA.

2. The Reading Improvement Course should be confined to those individuals who actually need it because of demonstrable reading defects in those who take it. Informed opinion is to the effect that more harm than good comes of giving this course to individuals whose reading techniques, especially as applied to FBID operations, are already adequate. 7

3. The thirty-six hours of lectures would be of value if they could be adjusted to FBID deadlines, say two hours a day for eighteen work days from 1300 to 1500. It is doubtful if the 20 1/2 hours spent in "discussion periods", "trainee problems and projects", "study and conference periods", and "reading improvement courses" would for training purposes be anywhere near as valuable as 20 1/2 hours spent in the Editorial and Special Reports Branches of FBID. On-the-job training has the additional advantage of providing assistance in the heavy production load of the Division.

4. FBID considers on-the-job training essential regardless of pre-entry background or training which the individual employee has when he enters on duty in the Division. The advantages that on-the-job training in FBID has over a basic intelligence course include: specific instruction in work methods and techniques of the Division and to some extent those of CIA; highly current information on the political, sociological and economical situations in various large areas of the world as opposed to highly specialized area study; concurrent orientation in all aspects of FBID's intelligence information collection problems along with the development of area background and the general policies of the Agency.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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